(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The 40 Indian who were working at Al Buraimi, and Omani town bordering UAE, had crossed over to Al Ain, which is a few kilometres away on the UAE side. It is understood that no visa is required for such a movement. In the wake of tragic happenings at Ayodhya, several violent incidents took place in Al Ain. As a result the UAE authorities has arrested a large number of people who did not have proper travel documents and visas in Al Ain area. The 40 persons were among those arrested by the UAE authorities in Al Ain. The 40 arrested Indian pleaded for repatriation to Al Buraimi on the ground that they had valid travel documents and permission to stay in Oman. It is understood that some discussions on the subject took place between the Immigration authorities of UAE and Oman. Considerable efforts were also made by our Missions in Abu Dhabi and Muscat to facilitate return of these detainees to Oman. In the prevailing situation, Omani authorities were, however, not agreeable to allow re-entry to the 40 detainees to Oman. The UAE authorities, therefore, decided to repatriate all the 40 persons to India. The insistence of 40 detainees to return to Oman caused some delay in the issue of temporary travel documents and their final repatriation to India. The detainees finally arrived in India towards the end of January, 1993.

(d) The Government has taken up the matter through diplomatic channels and our Mission in Muscat is in constant touch with Omani Government as well as the sponsors to work out a viable solution for their return to Oman. It is now understood that due to our Mission's efforts the sponsors have so far agreed to take back three of the forty Indian nationals.

भारत के खाड़ी देशों के साथ संबंध

1778. **श्री दिग्विजय सिंह** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि दंगाइयों को खाड़ी देशों से हथियार प्राप्त हुए थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार द्वारा इस मामले में खाड़ी देशों के साथ बातचीत की गई है अथवा किए जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इसके क्या परिणाम निकलने की संभावना है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) ऐसी कोई विशिष्ट सूचना सरकार के पास नहीं है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Indian Mission opened/closed during last two years

1779. SHRI MATANG SING : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) details of the countries where Indian Mission has been opened/upgraded or closed down or reduced during the past two years;

(b) reasons in such cases along with justifications;

(c) whether some countries have approached the Government for opening or upgrading their Mission; and

(d) if so, the details regarding each such proposal and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Since January 1, 1991; Indian Missions have been opened in the following countries :—

1. Ukraine	08-05-92
2. Kazakhstan . . .	09-05-92
3. Belarus	14-05-92
4. Israel	15-05-92
5. Russia :—	
(i) CGI Vladivostock .	09-09-92
(ii) CGI St. Petersburg .	13-01-93
6. China :—	
CGI Shanghai .	16-11-92

Further the Consulate at Tashkent (in Uzbekistan) was upgraded to the status of an Embassy on 13-3-92.

During this period the Embassy in Mogadiscio was temporarily closed on January 8, 1991; Consulate in Basrah on January 15, 1991, the Embassy in Afghanistan on February 6, 1993 and the Embassy in Colombia was closed down on March 1, 1993. The missions in Malawi and Zaire are also slated for closure.

New missions have been opened/upgraded in the context of rapidly evolving post Cold-war International scenario with a view to strengthen political, economic, commercial and other ties with these countries. Regarding the missions which were closed, while the Embassy in Somalia and Afghanistan and the Consulate in Basrah were closed temporarily following internal disturbances in the countries, the other 3 missions are being closed down as a part of economy measures undertaken by the Ministry after taking into account all relevant factors.

(c) Yes, Sir.

PROPOSAL	*ACTION TAKEN*
1. Government of Malta has approached for opening of a Consulate in Madras.	Under active consideration.
2. Republic of Armenia has approached for opening of a resident Mission in Delhi	Under active consideration.
3. Government of Vietnam has approached for opening of a Consulate in Bombay.	Under active consideration.
4. Government of Uzbekistan has approached for opening of a resident diplomatic Mission in Delhi.	Under active consideration. However they have already opened a small office for attending to consular work.
5. Government of Namibia has approched for opening of a Resident Mission in New Delhi.	Government of India's Agreement has since been conveyed.
6. Government of USA has approached for opening a Foreign Commercial office in Bangalore.	Government of India's approval has since been conveyed.
7. Government of Portugal has approached for opening of a Consulate in Goa.	Government of India's approval has since been conveyed.
8. Government of France has approached for appointment of an Honorary Consul in Madras.	Government of India's approval has since been conveyed.
9. Government of Netherlands has approached for appointment of an Honorary Consul in Calcutta.	Under active consideration.

1780. [*Transferred to 22nd March* 1993]

Memorandum of understanding between India and Bhutan

1781. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH :
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleaded to state :

(a) what was the outcome of the visit of King of Bhutan to India recently;

(b) whether any memorandum of understanding was signed between Bhutan and India;

(c) In what manner, the Government propose to meet the cost of the power project over Suokosh river in Bhutan ? What is the expected amount of power to be